

Community Newsletter

September 2021 Edition



Mayor's Note



As many of you know, my partner Matt and I recently were thrilled to welcome the arrival of our baby girl, Maggie. In the short time since our growing family has been amazed at how so many of you have reached out to congratulate us with words of kindness and support. While I was humbled by this outpouring, I was not surprised. Lakewood is the kind of place people seek out to raise their families because of the incredible community found here. We are so grateful to be part of this community.

It is difficult to put in words how excited I am to raise our family in this city where I grew up and am now so fortunate to serve. Lakewood is truly unique in the way we are able to serve families and provide services and

amenities. It's a place where generations of children, parents, and grandparents grow up and choose to stay or come back as they set down roots.

You may have also heard about the efforts underway to invest in and improve Madison Park. This effort was driven by community voices who helped my administration and city council understand resident priorities and seize opportunities to make a city gem even better. It's this kind of deep engagement and dedication that has been essential to making Lakewood the ideal place to raise a family – or to start a business, retire, get involved, and live a full life.

Part of what also makes Lakewood great are the events that bring us all together. Thanks to everyone who came out on August 7th to support local artists at the 44th Annual Lakewood Arts Fest. The event was a big success, and others are on the way, including the annual Lakewood Community Festival on Saturday, September 11. I hope to see you out and about enjoying the warm weather and all Lakewood has to offer in the weeks to come.

Mayor Meghan F. George

Upcoming Events & Updates

September 11 - Lakewood Community Festival

The 33rd annual Lakewood Community Festival is set for Saturday, September 11 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Madison Park. The festival celebrates community, cultural heritage, and families.

September 15- Coffee with a Cop

Join members of the Lakewood Police Department for coffee and conversation on Wednesday, September 15 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Starbucks, 15027 Detroit

Avenue.

September 16- Third Thursdays in Madison Park

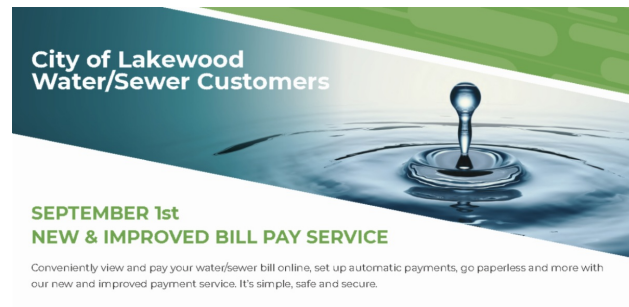
Friends of Madison Park launched [Third Thursdays in Madison Park](#) a quartet of free community events featuring refreshments from local eateries, family-friendly activities, and neighborly conversation.

Calendar of Events

Don't Forget to Register for the New Water/Sewer Bill Pay System

Have you signed up for the new water/sewer bill pay service? Now is the time to sign-up to conveniently view and pay water/sewer bills online, set up automatic payments, go paperless, and more.

Customers who wish to pay in person, over the phone, or by mail still may do so. For details on how to enroll in the new system, please click [here](#). Have questions about the system? Be sure to check out the [FAQ's](#) here. If you have any questions or issues as you set up your new account, please contact the Water Department at 216-529-6820.



News from Housing & Building



Housing License Applications

The housing license applications are now open and are due on November 1, 2021. You can complete the application by logging into the Citizenserve portal and find more information about the housing license process [here](#).

If you have had a housing license previously, select Renew, and if you are new to the housing license program, select Apply for a new housing license and create an account. In addition, the certificate of code compliance has been added to the Citizenserve Portal.

Welcome Dave Lawrence

This summer we welcomed Dave Lawrence, a new building inspector with over 30 years of experience in the field to the team. Welcome, Dave!

Rental Restoration Program



Check out the recent renovation of a tenant unit at 15601 Madison Avenue, a 12 unit apartment building. Eleven units are being completed through the Rental Restoration Loan Program, along with site improvements including front steps and driveway repaving.

The Rental Restoration Program offers landlords in Lakewood 0% interest financing and partial loan forgiveness, up to \$14,000 per unit, to make improvements to their rental properties.

Interested in learning if this program can help you improve your rental property in Lakewood? Contact Mary E. Leigh, Programs Manager in the Department of Planning and Development at 216-529-7681 or Mary.Leigh@lakewoodoh.net.

Welcome New Lakewood Police Officers

Congratulations to Officers Donald Flowers, Nathan Hokin, Joseph Imburgia, and Jared Yoe. The new officers were sworn in on August 18th.



Firefighter Recognition Ceremony Set for October 3rd

The Lakewood Fire Department is hosting its annual Firefighter Recognition Ceremony on Sunday, October 3 at noon at Fire Station 1, 14601 Madison Avenue.

The ceremony will recognize recently retired firefighters, recently hired firefighters, and recognize those involved in the recent trench rescue on Thoreau for their efforts. Mayor George will swear in the newest members and administer their oath of office.

Lakewood Receives Distinguished Budget Award

The City of Lakewood continues to be recognized for its solid and transparent finance and accounting practices, receiving the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation.

The GFOA recently updated its budgeting program, and abiding by and enacting the requirements of the award guidelines amount to meeting good governmental and organizational financial practices. The GFOA's program employs excellent structured criteria that help governments perform their short and long-range financial planning.

For more information on the award, click [here](#).



Construction Update

Road work and construction projects continue into the fall:

- Elbur Ave: Both sides of the street now have new curbs and aprons, seeding on tree lawns will begin in September
- Lauderdale Ave: Waterline main placement work ongoing
- Resurfacing of Dowd and Magee is ongoing
- Detroit Sloane construction project is ongoing



Clean Water Lakewood Update: Impervious Surface Fee and ARPA funds allow for a fairer rate structure

CLEAN WATER LAKEWOOD



Rebuilding the Pipeline for Our Future

The improvements needed to modernize our 100-year-old sewer system and meet state and federal regulatory requirements will cost about \$300 million. To help fund this work, City Council has approved the use of \$25 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and the implementation of an Impervious Surface Fee. City Council dedicated a portion of the City's ARPA funding to sewer system improvements to help make water and sewer rates more affordable.

Residential customers will see a \$2 Impervious Surface Fee on their monthly water bill beginning Jan. 1, 2022. The Impervious Surface Fee for commercial, industrial, institutional, and multifamily customers will be based on the amount of paved and hard surfaces on their property, which is a common practice in our region and across the nation.

This fee is the result of much consideration and engagement with residents, experts, and officials, and creates a fairer way to charge for improvements to our infrastructure because those customers that place the most demand on the system will pay more than residential customers.

Our City's sewer system is no longer in compliance with federal and state regulation. Like many cities in Ohio, our wastewater system is stressed during storms, meaning that overflow into the treatment system is more than the system can handle. We must upgrade the system to ensure the health of the Rocky River and Lake Erie while keeping affordability top of mind. More information is available [here](#).

The City of Lakewood is Hiring!

The City of Lakewood is currently seeking applicants for the following openings:

- City architect
- Full-time lateral police officer
- Urban planning intern
- Finance manager
- Fleet mechanic



For further details regarding all our job opportunities and to apply, please visit [here](#).

Safety Reminders

Car Fire Safety

Cars can catch fire for many reasons. Mechanical or electrical issues are the most common cause. A car can also catch fire as the result of a bad crash. If you see smoke or flames or smell burning rubber or plastic, respond immediately.

What to do if your car is on fire:

- Pull over as quickly as it is safe to do so, be sure to use your signal as you make your way to a safe location off the road such as the breakdown lane or rest stop.
- Once you have stopped, TURN OFF the engine.
- GET everyone out of the car. Never return to a burning car for anything.
- MOVE everyone at least 100 feet from the burning car and well away from traffic.
- CALL 9-1-1.

Learn more about car fire safety [here](#).

Chicken Coop Fire Safety

Raising chickens as a hobby is popular. Hobby farmers enjoy raising hens as pets or livestock. Protect people, property, and your flock from the tragedy of fire.

- Make sure that heat lamps are properly secured.
- This will keep them from being knocked over.
- Keep heat lamps away from anything that can burn.
- Keep space heaters away from anything that can burn.
- Place space heaters on a sturdy surface so they won't be knocked over.
- Brush cobwebs and dust from light fixtures and outlets. Do this regularly.
- Choose light bulbs that have covers. This will protect them from dirt, moisture, and breaking.
- Do not use extension cords in the coop.
- Choose electrical equipment for agricultural or commercial use.
- Be careful with electrically heated poultry waterers. Make sure the cord and plug are properly grounded.
- Check all wiring for damage.
- Have electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- Choose outlets and switch boxes designed to keep out dust and water.